

## Biomes of the World Investigation

**A.** Look through the list of some of the world's biomes and their major characteristics. Based on your experience, determine which biome best describes Southern California.

	Tropical Rain Forests	Tropical Savannah	Desert
Climate	High temperatures and rainfall Rainfall: 60" to 160" a year.	High temperatures year-round, with 4 to 8 months of drought.	Day: high temperatures. Night: extreme cold. Little rain.
Soil	Rapid decomposition. Nutrient poor, acidic with high levels of aluminum and iron oxides. Reddish in color.	Acidic. Reddish in color.	High content of salt. Sand is common. Light brown, gray in color.
Vegetation	Complex forest with as many as five layers. Broad–leaf evergreens and vines.	Grassland with scattered trees. Acacia, baobab, palm and grasses.	Low-level shrubs, cactus.
Animals	Apes, monkeys, leopards.	Giraffe, antelope, lion.	Reptiles, snakes and burrowing rodents.
Location	Low-lying areas near the equator, between 10° North and South latitude.	Often on either side of rain forests, located on the African and South American continents.	Various locations including west coasts between 20° to 30° latitude, interiors of continents, and the leeward side of high mountain ranges.
	Mediterranean	Temperate Grassland	Temperate Deciduous Forest
Climate	Six months each: hot, dry summers; cool, moist winters.	Warm to hot summers, cool to very cold winters.	Warm summers, cold winters. Abundant rain year-round.
Soil	Thin rocky soils on hillsides.	Typically alkaline soils. Blackish in color.	Rich in organic materials. Slightly acidic surface soil. Dark brown in color.
Vegetation	Chaparral adapted to fire. Evergreen shrubs characte- rized by small, waxy leaves.	Short grasses.	Primarily deciduous trees: oak, hickory, maple, and ash.
Vegetation Animals	Evergreen shrubs characte-	Short grasses.  Depending on continent: bison, camels, elephants.	•





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	Boreal Forest	Alpine Tundra	Arctic Tundra
	(Evergreen Coniferous)		
Climate	Cool summers, extremely cold winters.	Variable temperatures that increase with elevation. Intense sunlight + ultraviolet exposure.	Long, cold winters with little rainfall.
Soil	Low decomposition rate. Acidic soils; black on the surface.	Rocky, with little nutrients. Greyish in color.	Rocky, with little nutrients. Frozen. Greyish in color.
Vegetation	Evergreen, cone-bearing trees; few deciduous trees	Lichen, mosses, dwarf trees.	Treeless, low shrubs, mosses and lichen.
Animals	Moose, bear, wolf, porcupine.	Mountain goat, marmot, elk.	Caribou, musk ox, polar bears.
Location	The largest terrestrial biome. A broad belt across North America, Europe and Asia. Also located at high latitudes.	Upper altitudes of mountain ranges.	High latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere in a belt around the Arctic Ocean.

B. Which blome did you choose? Explain your answer.				